

Message from the President

It is an honor and privilege to serve the Centre as President for the period 2008-2009. The Edmonton Centre has been well-served in the past by leaders of vision and has an enviable record of past achievements. The newly appointed Executive, therefore, has set for itself the vision of working with all members ***to build together from this proud past to a brighter future.***

This vision is encapsulated in the acronym **S.M.I.L.E**

S - Sathya Sai Spirituality and service: The Centre is primarily a spiritual and service organization following the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba; therefore its organizational structure and programs would focus on spirituality and service in an atmosphere that is warm, inviting and inclusive

M - Mandate: As an affiliate of the Sathya Sai Organization in Canada, the Edmonton Centre is committed to awaken in all people the awareness of their inherent divinity and to encourage the practice of the universal principles of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-Violence through personal example and selfless service by its Office-Bearers and members

I - Invite, Inform, Invigorate & Inspire (Communication and programs): Communication would be open and transparent; the Executive would keep the congregation well-informed and invite the input of members through regular meetings. A serious attempt would be made to have programs that invigorate and inspire

L - Love: Our Love for Swami must translate into love and respect for each other and for humanity and our environment

E - Empowerment: We need to create a sense of belonging and loyalty in our members by engaging them in serving the Centre and their Lord by empowering them and providing opportunities for them to use their talents and skills in various capacities.

To fulfill this vision, some of our key priorities include the following: Having Open Houses for the public; a newcomers' table and welcome evenings; Service activities that move beyond feeding programs such as Community EHV, Meditation & Yoga classes; a revised selection process; Interfaith programs; an active ladies' wing; reaching out to past and present members for greater engagement; increasing the visibility and active participation of SSE children, parents and youth at the Centre; and dialogue on the creative use of our building and site.

As President, I believe we have a strong team of Executive members. Working together in harmony and cooperation with each other, the general membership and the Foundation, we hope to **S.M.I.L.E.**

The publication of this newsletter is an effort to improve communication and foster unity. I would like to thank Gee Kucy for taking the initiative to revive the publication of a Newsletter which she started several years ago. We hope you like this first edition, and would support this publication with your comments and contributions.

We pray most sincerely for Swami's Grace on all our efforts in the next two years.

Sincerely
T.R. Pillay